

was the first time in the organization's history that an entire State was added to the list. He helped the city of Rutland persuade Wal-Mart to anchor in the community's historic downtown instead of outside of town in a vacant field, a victory that few other communities across the country have won. That was not enough though, and he has brought Rutland's story to other communities throughout the State, where no matter the outcome, he has helped empower community leaders to make decisions rather than bow to the whims of out-of-state developers.

In my lifetime of public service, I have never met a person so adept at bringing people together and finding ways to make sure everyone has a voice. Years before he came to work for me, Paul was a key player in setting up the consumer fraud office within the Vermont attorney general's office, where he not only protected consumer rights, but also helped the office create a toll-free number that revolutionized the way Vermonters communicated with their government. When I entered the Senate, Paul and I brought this concept to the greatest deliberative body in the Senate by operating the first toll-free phone line in the Congress.

Paul has always put the interests of all Vermonters ahead of himself or any organization he has ever steered. The Preservation Trust of Vermont has been no different. Through his involvement, Vermont is a better place and Vermonters have realized the wonderful things our past has to offer. Thank you Paul, and congratulations to you and everyone who has ever helped make the Preservation Trust of Vermont the success it is today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT CHARLES T. DUBOIS

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a man who has served over 36 years in the U.S. Air Force, with the vast majority of that service in the Missouri Air National Guard. CMSgt Charles T. DuBois retired on September 10, 2005, after a long and distinguished record of service to the State of Missouri and the United States. Chief DuBois enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on June 18, 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War. He served in the Air Force until March 12, 1973, and entered the Air National Guard on September 14, 1975.

As a member of the 131st Fighter Wing in St. Louis, MO, Chief DuBois has been associated with a unit whose history has spanned over eight decades and whose former members have included the likes of aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh.

Throughout Chief DuBois' service at the 131st, he has seen the unit transition from F-100s to F-4 Phantoms to F-15As, and now upon his retirement, the

transition to F-15Cs, the Nation's premier homeland defense and air superiority aircraft. As a crew chief, Chief DuBois was fully qualified on: the B-52D; C-141A; C-124; C-5A; F-100 C, D & F; F-4 C, D & E; and the F-15 A, B, C, and D models.

Throughout his career Chief DuBois remained dedicated concomitantly to the vital missions of the Air National Guard and to the paramount commitment of taking care of his family. It is the latter that Chief DuBois will continue to fulfill upon his retirement as a devoted husband, father and son. He and his wife Theresa were married in November of 1977 and have one son, Michael, who serves on my staff as an advisor on, among a number of other issues, the National Guard. Chief DuBois has one daughter, Kristine, who lives and works in northern Virginia. As a dedicated son of someone whom I have had the pleasure and honor to work with when I was Governor of Missouri, GEN Charles H. DuBois and his wife Ruth, "Terry" as Chief DuBois goes by in civilian life, remains dedicated to their well-being. The General, or "Charlie Two Stars" as I often referred to him, and his lovely wife Ruth, can rest assured they raised a son who has served both his family and the military with honor.

The honor in which Chief DuBois has served can be seen in the numerous awards, ribbons and commendations he has been decorated with throughout his career. He has received the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices, the Air Force Achievement Medal with one device, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for 2 AEF duty tours in Provide Comfort and Northern Watch, and the National Defense Service Medal with two devices for his service during Vietnam and Desert Storm. These accolades represent only a handful of the numerous other State and Federal service medals Chief DuBois has collected during his 36 years of service. As Chief DuBois retired, he was the most senior chief master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard and was the youngest guardsman to make chief when he did so, just like his father who, upon his retirement, was the most senior major general in the Air Force and Air Guard and the youngest at the time to make general.

Again, I wish to extend Chief Charles T. DuBois my heartiest congratulations upon his retirement and my sincere thanks for the 35-plus years of service he has rendered to the State of Missouri and the Nation.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALEXANDER, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On September 2 through September 5, the residents of Alexander, ND, celebrated their community's history and founding.

Alexander is a small town in the northwestern part of North Dakota with a population of 216. Despite its size, Alexander holds an important place within North Dakota's history. It began on July 24, 1905, when the city was platted by Frank B. Chapman. That same year, a wide variety of businesses were constructed in the town, including the Dakota Trading Company Store, the Alexander State Bank, and the Alexander Hotel. Later that year, the McKenzie County Chronicle began publication in an office of the Alexander State Bank. In 1918, the town suffered a devastating fire; however, the town rebuilt and continued to grow.

Today, Alexander remains a proud community with an economy bolstered by farming, ranching, and oil extraction. In the city's park, hamburgers are served every summer Saturday evening. The town is also home to the Lewis and Clark Trail Museum, which is housed in the old school house. Each room in the museum highlights a different and unique view of the area's history.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Alexander, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. I believe that by honoring Alexander and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is such places as Alexander that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this community is deserving of our recognition.

Alexander has a proud past and a bright future.●

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF GALE REINERS

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Gale Reiners for his 35 years of service to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. When he retires later this month, Mr. Reiners will have served his country for almost 40 years, both in the military and through his public service on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

During his tenure at the Regional VA Office in Sioux Falls, Gale provided important counsel and advice to veterans, family members, VA officials, veterans' service officers, and congressional members and their staff on a range of issues. Throughout that time, he has witnessed many changes in the VA, and has been diligent in assisting veterans with their questions, needs and issues. He has helped educate all those concerned about the ever-changing scope of the veterans' benefits program.

Gale wanted to retire 18 months ago but was persuaded to continue his duties at the VA. At the time he announced his retirement, the VA regional offices in North Dakota and South Dakota were working to combine various veterans' services. Gale's